

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/822,495

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

RONNEWINKEL ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Matthew J. Smyth (Reg. No. 58,224) on 9/25/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,9,13-15,24,26,27 and 29 (renumbered as 1-9).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 1, 13, 23, 26-27, and 29, canceled claims 4-8, 10-12, 25, 28, and 30-31, and added a new claim 32 in the amendment filed on 9/17/07.

The pending claims are 1, 9, 13-15, 23-24, 26-27, 29, and 32.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew J. Smyth (Reg. No. 58,224) on 9/25/07.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, last two lines, delete [associates with the categorization scheme a plurality of business processes that categorize received electronic messages.], and insert - - "associates the categorization scheme with a plurality of business processes that categorize received electronic messages" - -;

Claim 13, lines 3-4, delete [a single categorization of the data.], and insert - - "a single categorization of the received electronic messages." - -;

Claim 14, line 3, delete [change the level at which a category is defined.],
and insert - - "change a hierarchical level at which a category is defined." - -;

Cancel claim 23;

Claim 24, line 2, delete [in the tabbed information panel], and insert - - "in
the linking area" - -; and

Cancel claim 32.

5. The pending claims are 1, 9, 13-15, 24, 26-27, and 29.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 9, 13-15, 24, 26-27, and 29 are allowed.

Claim 1 identifies the distinct features, "a categorization area that displays a categorization scheme for categorizing electronic messages received in an electronic message response management system and categorization controls for modifying the categorization scheme; a linking area comprising a first tabbed viewset, a second tabbed viewset, and a third tabbed viewset, wherein the first tabbed viewset comprises user input fields for receiving input that categorizes a condition that, when met, associates a received electronic message with the active category, the second tabbed

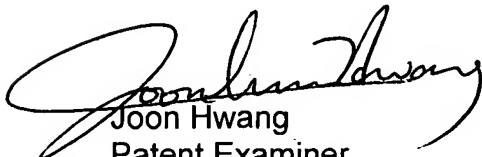
viewset comprises user input fields for receiving input that identifies one or more candidate response messages corresponding to the active category and provides a preview panel that displays at least one of the one or more candidate response messages corresponding to the active category, and the third tabbed viewset comprises user input fields for receiving input that associates the categorization scheme with a plurality of business processes that categorize received electronic messages", which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of records. The closest prior art, Snow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,540) disclosing creating a category hierarchy for classification of documents and Gainey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,941,304) disclosing an enterprise email management system for handling incoming emails, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 1, 9, 13-15, 24, 26-27, and 29 are hereby allowed.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

9/27/07